

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
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Sathyanarayana Nagendra Puttu, et al	)	Confirmation No.: 5403
	)	
Serial No.: 10/674,577	)	Examiner: Charles E. Anya
	)	
Filing Date: September 29, 2003	)	Group Art Unit: 2194
	)	
For: Verifying Information Stored on a Managed	)	
Network Device	)	

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**Mail Stop Appeal via EFS-Web**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**ATTACHMENT TO PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Applicants respectfully request the Office to reverse the decision set forth in the Office Action mailed December 17, 2009 based upon the clear errors described in this paper.

- 1. The parameters of a standard SNMP GET request are not equivalent to a plurality of proposed correct values for a MIB object.**

The Examiner relies on Kekic to allegedly teach “*a SNMP GET request identifying an SNMP MIB object and also containing a plurality of non-null values comprising proposals for a correct value of the SNMP MIB object.*” Kekic describes a standard SNMP GET request. However, a person of reasonable skill in the art would understand that the parameters to a standard SNMP GET request are not proposals for a correct value for the MIB variable parameter, as claimed. A standard SNMP GET request is issued for the purpose of **retrieving**

the value of the MIB object identified in the request, and the request does not include a proposal for the value that the request expects to retrieve. Kekic in particular does not teach or suggest that an SNMP GET request includes as an input parameter a proposed value for the MIB object named in the request.

The Office Action cites "...snmpGet()... Col. 86 Ln. 25-46" in *Kekic*, which describes implementation of standard SNMP methods. The contents of a standard SNMP GET request are suggested in lines 43-46 of the cited passage which state:

*"Valid parameters such as a device name, a community string, and a MIB variable are required to perform these methods, otherwise a corresponding error message is given instead of the valid MIB value."*

The Examiner considers the MIB variable parameter to be equivalent to the claimed SNMP MIB object and considers the device name and community string together as equivalent to the claimed *"plurality of values comprising proposals for a correct value of the SNMP MIB object."*

A device name and community string are not proposed values for the MIB variable whose value is being requested. The device name is required to identify the relevant device, and the community string is a security token that allows access to the desired object. It is clearly an error to consider the parameters of a standard SNMP GET request to be equivalent to a plurality of values comprising proposals for a correct value of the SNMP MIB object.

The Examiner appears to allege that if the value of a community string is unknown, there is a way to determine whether a value for the community string is valid or not using a standard SNMP GET request. However, *Kekic* does not describe an SNMP GET request in which the MIB variable input parameter identifies a community string. Thus, the value of a community string as an input parameter to the SNMP GET request cannot comprise a proposed value for the

MIB variable identified in the request. The value of the community string is a security token that is necessary to be presented for access to some other MIB variable (and not the community string itself).

Even if Kekic did attempt to validate a community string value by proposing a value for a MIB object that is a community string, Kekic only describes a single community string input parameter, not a **plurality** of proposed values as claimed. There is no suggestion that the device name input parameter represents a second proposed value for the community string.

**2. A standard SNMP GET error message is not equivalent to the claimed notification.**

The Examiner relies on Kekic's description of an error message generated by an SNMP request to allegedly teach *"transmitting a notification message indicating whether any of the values matches the correct value of the SNMP MIB object."* However, an SNMP GET error message is not the same as the claimed notification because an SNMP error message does not indicate whether any of the parameters to the request match the correct MIB object value. The semantics of an error message and the claimed notification are very different. An error message is intended to signal a failure with the request, whereas the claimed notification is the expected response to a request conforming to the new interface described in the claims.

As mentioned above, the Examiner appears to allege that receiving an error message in response to providing an invalid community string is equivalent to a notification that the "proposed value" for the community string is not the correct value. However, an error message received in response to a SNMP GET request is not a notification of **whether** any of a plurality of proposed values are correct for the requested MIB variable at least because there are not a plurality of proposed values in the request.

In addition, when the value of the community string is valid, the system returns the value of the requested MIB variable. The system does not transmit a notification message that indicates that the “proposed” community string is valid, as claimed. Also, receiving an error message in response to issuing an SNMP GET request does not necessarily mean that the value of the community string is invalid. There might be some other error in the request. Thus, receiving an error does not necessarily indicate that the value of the community string input parameter is not a correct value.

### **3. Conclusions**

The Office action is based upon clear error and the rejections of all pending claims should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

Hickman Palermo Truong & Becker LLP

Dated: March 16, 2010

/DeborahLCaswell#61766/

Patent Agent, Deborah L. Caswell

Reg. No. 61,766

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550  
San Jose, California 95110-1089  
Telephone No.: (408) 754-1455  
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076